

2011 PLANNING COMMISSIONER BIOS

JON COMMERS (Chair) – Appointed to Planning Commission 3/24/06 – current term expires 01/01/12

2500 University Avenue W, Saint Paul 55114

Ward 4 District Council 12

Jon Commers is founder and principal of a public finance and policy consultancy based on University Avenue. In this role, Jon works with private, public and philanthropic clients on projects that concern urban redevelopment and land use, business and economic development, and public policy. Jon represents Saint Paul as a member of the Metropolitan Council and is a co-founder of Strong Towns, a virtual nonprofit organization focused on improving the fiscal health of communities through productive land use. He lives in the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood with his wife Beth and their children.

PAT CONNOLLY – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/10 – current term expires 01/01/13

2464 Como Avenue, Saint Paul 55108

Ward 4 District Council 12

Pat Connolly moved to St. Paul in 1999 after graduate school at UW-Madison where he earned a Master of Science in Real Estate and Urban Land Economics and another M.S. in Land Resources. His B.S. in Geography and Urban Studies came from the University of Minnesota, and he grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota. Pat has lived in St. Anthony Park since 2005, but also still owns investment property in Macalester-Groveland. He is the Housing Development Director for LSS of Minnesota, but has also had career chapters at Welsh Companies and CommonBond Communities. Pat teaches in the Urban Studies department at the U of M, pursues a wedding photography avocation, and adores his daughter. Pat tries to bring to the Commission a respect for a variety of points of view, common sense and openness to change and growth.

ANTHONY FERNANDEZ – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/10 – current term expires 01/01/12

779 Edmund Avenue, #2, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 1 District Council 7

Anthony Fernandez is originally from Santa Barbara, California. He has a background in theatre and video production. He is currently working for Coldwell Banker Burnet as a residential Realtor. He was formerly the chair of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7). Anthony is currently a resident of Frogtown

GENE GELGELU – Appointed to Planning Commission -01/-01/10 – current term expires 01/01/13

1955 University Avenue W, Ste 210, Saint Paul 55117

Ward 5 District Council 6

Gene Gelgelu has lived in Saint Paul for more than ten years. He is executive director for African Economic Development Solutions, a nonprofit organization that serves African immigrant and refugee communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. He holds a Bachelors degree in finance from Metropolitan State University in Minnesota and Master of Business Administration in finance from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. He has worked with both for profit and nonprofit organizations in a leadership capacity and built diverse experiences. Mr. Gelgelu has a special interest in community development.

BRIANNA HALVERSON – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/10 – current term expires 01/01/13

411 Main Street, #202, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2 District Council

Bree Halverson has a background in labor issues. Her past work on projects like Rock Tenn and Central Corridor has given her a unique perspective on the Planning Commission. She is interested in being forward thinking about planning for the city so that construction jobs and long-term jobs that development brings truly meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

RICHARD KRAMER – Appointed to Planning Commission 03/16/94 – current term expires 01/01/12

1471 Barclay Street, Saint Paul 55106-1405

Ward 6 District Council 2

Rich Kramer owns a small printing and manufacturing business on St. Paul's Eastside, where he also lives. He is a long-time member of the St. Paul Planning Commission, initially appointed in 1994. Mr. Kramer has chaired a number of committees and task forces of the Planning Commission, including those overseeing land-use comprehensive planning and the Phalen Corridor development strategy, and both chaired and served as a member of small area planning task forces in the White Bear Avenue, Sun Ray, Phalen Village and Arcade Street neighborhoods.

Rich Kramer was appointed to the Metropolitan Council by Gov. Mark Dayton in March 2011. Kramer represents District 13, which includes the eastern half of St. Paul, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, Sunfish Lake and West St. Paul. He also serves as vice chair of the St. Paul Charter Commission, has served on a regional rail authority task force, and assisted with parks and recreation planning efforts in St. Paul. He has served as past president, past vice president and board member of the St. Paul District 2 Community Council, and also on the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation Board of Directors. Mr. Kramer has also been active in the business community as past board member of the White Bear Avenue, Payne Arcade, and East Side Area business associations.

PAULA MERRIGAN – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/10 – current term expires 01/01/13

333 Washington Avenue N, Minneapolis 55401

Ward 3 District Council 14

Paula Merrigan is a Principal of DJR Architecture, Inc. When she moved back to Minnesota, she made a conscious choice to live in Saint Paul. She was attracted to the strength of its neighborhoods, its rich history, the character of its built environment, its cultural diversity, and its relationship to the riverfront. Her professional experiences have equipped her to recognize the importance of planning in bringing together key components of the urban environment in order to stimulate revitalization, strengthen neighborhoods, and offer diverse opportunities to live, work, and play.

She is an Alumna Fellow with the Mondale Policy Forum of the Humphrey Institute where she did research on housing and public policy. After years of presenting development projects to public agencies, and planning commissions she felt well prepared to sit on the other side of the table. She embraces this chance to give something back to the city whose quality of life she so values.

GAIUS NELSON – Appointed to Planning Commission 03/24/06 – current term expires 01/01/12

206 Wheeler Street S, Saint Paul 55105-1927

Ward 3 District Council 14

Gaius Nelson is a long time resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood where he lives with his wife and daughter. He has been active in neighborhood issues since the early 1980s, serving as president of the community council, chair of its housing & land use committee and as the Macalester-Groveland community council representative on several city-wide planning task groups.

As a nationally recognized architect focused on the design of Environments for Aging and special needs populations, Mr. Nelson and his firm, Nelson-Tremain Partnership, pioneered the household model for design of non-institutional, person-centered, care and living environments. The Shaller Family Shalom East Campus at Victoria Park in Saint Paul's West End, is a high density urban example of his work.

Mr. Nelson also serves on national committees charged with the creation and updating of Codes and Guidelines for the design and construction of health care facilities.

His family enjoys travel, international cuisine, and are dedicated boosters of the Saint Paul Stars Synchronized Swim Team.

CHRISTOPHER OCHS – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/11 – current term expires 01/01/14

850 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 1

District Council 8

Christopher Ochs is a twenty-one year resident of Ward 1 Saint Paul where he and his wife are raising their young family of four children. He is an award-winning landscape designer with Windsor Companies; holds a Bachelors degree in Environmental Design, two Master degrees from the University of Minnesota in Landscape Architecture and Urban & Regional Planning; and has served the District 8 Planning Council, Selby Area CDC, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. Chris is well traveled and draws a considerable amount of geographical and cultural experiences from visiting or residing in bustling cities and rural villages across the globe. He hopes his experience and sense of community will contribute to the well-being of the city of Saint Paul.

TREVOR OLIVER – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/11 – current term expires 01/01/14

2021 Margaret Street, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7

District Council 1

Trevor Oliver is an attorney at the law firm of Kelly & Lemmons in Saint Paul. His law practice focuses on municipal law and land use law, and he has been recognized in 2010 and 2011 as a Minnesota "Rising Star" in those fields. Trevor received a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and obtained his law degree from the University of Minnesota. He lives on St. Paul's Eastside with his wife and three children.

JULIE PERRUS – Appointed to Planning Commission in 01/01/11 – current term expires 01/01/14

7900 Xerxes Avenue S, Ste 1500 Minneapolis 55431

Ward 4

District Council 10

Julie Perrus, LEED AP, is a regulatory and land use attorney with Larkin Hoffman Attorneys. She holds a BS in Biology from Winona State University and her JD from William Mitchell College of Law. Julie is on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Land Trust and is actively involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the US Green Building Council. She lives in the Como Park neighborhood with her family and appreciates the spirit of community and civic participation fostered in St. Paul.

MARILYN PORTER – Appointed to Planning Commission 05/07/04 – current term expires 01/01/14

1247 Maywood Street, Saint Paul 55117-4133

Ward 5

District Council 10

Marilyn Porter is a seasoned professional with over fifteen years of leadership and project management skills. Her expertise includes leading teams of specialists (architects, engineers and contractors), the ability to manage physical plant and building infrastructure, knowledge of government policy, procedure and practices in labor laws and government purchasing procedures. She has proven talents in her ability to effectively communicate with various stakeholders such as community/interest groups, government officials, contractors and building inspectors.

Her formal education and certifications include a BS in Architectural Studies and a MS in Management Technology with a concentration in Construction Management; she is also a Certified Plant Engineer, (AFE). Ms. Porter has completed coursework/training programs in Capital Budgeting for Facility Managers, Commercial Real Estate Specialist Program, University of St. Thomas, and the Mini Master of Project Management, University of St. Thomas.

Ms. Porter has a commitment to community engagement and support, currently serving on the St. Paul Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning appeals, Saint Paul Public Art organization, YMCA Board member, and former Catholic Charities Board of Directors.

ELIZABETH (Betsy) REVEAL – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/01/11 – current term expires 01/01/14

225 9th Street E, Unit 303, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 2 District Council 17

Betsy Reveal returned to St. Paul in 2009, after working in various American cities and abroad. She served as the chief budget officer, chief financial officer, or chief operating officer in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, PA., Seattle, WA, and the Kennedy School at Harvard, Amtrak and the United Nations Foundations. For the past fifteen years she has maintained a national and international consulting practice. She served on the Planning Commission in Philadelphia and worked closely with Planning Departments and Commissions in Seattle and Washington. Betsy lives downtown in Wacouta Commons.

ANTHONY SCHERTLER – Appointed to Planning Commission 02/18/09 – current term expires 01/01/14

380 Jackson Street, Ste 300, Saint Paul 55101-2887

Ward 3 District Council

Tony Schertler is a licensed attorney and leads the Housing and Economic Development Group for the public sector advisory firm Springsted Incorporated. For the past five years he has served local government clients in over 10 states in the Upper Midwest and Mid Atlantic regions. He worked 15 years for the City of St. Paul, 10 of those years for the department of Planning and Economic Development. He is a native of Washington D.C., a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville Minnesota and received his J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul. Tony lives in the Macalester/Groveland neighborhood with his wife and two children.

ROBERT SPAULDING – Appointed to Planning Commission 03/16/07 – current term expires 01/01/14

66 East 9th Street, #1714, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 2 District Council 8

Bob Spaulding first became aware of the impact of urban planning decisions when I-394 was planned and built a block from his childhood home. As Executive Director of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, he closely watched the successful resolution around the much-debated expansion of the University of St. Thomas along Summit Avenue, and was inspired by the potential in community-based planning.

For the last dozen years he's lived in downtown St. Paul with his wife Becky, and now his young son Tate. He's served on the board of downtown's CapitolRiver District Council, and been part of the Riverfront Corporation Adjunct Team. He co-chaired a Planning Commission Task Force on the future of his Fitzgerald (aka Pedro) Park neighborhood on downtown St. Paul's northern perimeter.

Bob currently chairs the Commission's Transportation Committee. He holds a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning, and works at Friends of the Mississippi River in St. Paul.

TERRI THAO – Appointed to Planning Commission 02/11/09 – current term expires 01/01/12

570 Asbury Street, Ste. 207, St. Paul 55104

Ward 6 District Council 2

Terri Thao is a program officer at Nexus Community Partners, a community building intermediary where she covers the South Minneapolis area (ranging north-south from Franklin Avenue to 38th Street). Terri has lived in St. Paul for over 20 years and currently resides on the East Side with her family. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Russian and a Masters Degree in Public Policy, both obtained from the University of Minnesota. Terri is an active community volunteer and cites her interest in learning more about city processes as the reason for her service on the Planning Commission.

JUN-LI WANG – Appointed to Planning Commission 06/04/10 – current term expires 01/01/12

308 Prince Street, Ste 270, Saint Paul 55101

Ward 4 District Council 11

Jun-Li Wang is a connector of people, places and ideas. As Artist Community Organizer at Springboard for the Arts, she creates and delivers programs that organize and empower artists, build reciprocal relationships between communities and their artists, and train artists to address community interests – locally, regionally and nationally. Jun-Li has extensive local and international experience in asset-based community development,

neighborhood leadership, and training. Jun-Li worked in China for 5 years for several international non-profits including The Asia Foundation and Project HOPE before returning to obtain a MPS in International Development from Cornell University. Prior to joining Springboard, she has worked for Farm in the City, Hamline Midway Coalition, Intermedia Arts, and Public Art Saint Paul. On occasion, she sells her textile craft art in local stores. Jun-Li also manages Paint the Pavement and is active on the board of Urban Boatbuilders, a metro non-profit serving at-risk youth.

DANIEL WARD II – Appointed to Planning Commission 01/25/08 – current term expires 01/01/14

1360 University Avenue W., Ste. 360, Saint Paul 55104

Ward 5

District Council 6

Daniel is the owner/principal licensed real estate broker for Capitol Realty Group, Inc. focusing on commercial sales, REO listings and sales, investment property sales and infill property development for emerging markets within the St. Paul/Minneapolis urban cores.

Daniel is also the owner of The Bethel Group, Inc. a design/build firm whose focus is working with private investors and non-profit groups engaged in neighborhood revitalization. Other experience has been in the capacity of project management, consulting/design, site acquisition, due diligence reports and third party inspections.

Daniel is the immediate past board president of SPARC; he serves on SPARC's Development and Housing committees and is also a board member of District 6 Planning Council serving the North End and south Como neighborhoods.

BARBARA WENCL – Appointed to Planning Commission 03/16/07 – current term expires 01/01/14

957 Oak View Ct, Saint Paul 55119

Ward 7

District Council 1

Barb Wencil is a retired Teacher/Librarian. As a teacher her communications skills are especially useful in meetings and she has the ability to mediate agreements. She is a past president of the Minnesota Federation of Teachers, and previously served on the Planning Commission from 1988-1998, during which she chaired the Phalen Village Plan Task Force. She currently serves on the board of the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation.

DAVID WICKISER – Appointed to Planning Commission 10/07/09 – current term expires 01/01/14

354 Duke Street, Saint Paul 55102

Ward 2

District Council 9

David Wickiser is employed with New City Real Estate, Inc. His day to day skills and experience involves intense knowledge of complex financing, small and mid-sized development (commercial), and residential and commercial real estate transactions, as well as knowing issues facing small and mid-sized business. He brings to the table an understanding of development and zoning, along with the ramifications of decisions made.